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FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1910.

Mr. Pinchot's Statement.

Gifford Pinchot, late Chief Forester, in his statement printed this morning, makes an indictment of Congress that is bound to impress the country.

As a publicist, it is now evident, he is destined to be no less a factor in national affairs than as a public servant. In fact, it is quite conceivable that his divorce from official life-rendered imperative by the exigencies of the case—has strengthened him as the foremost champion of national conservation and made him a more formidable factor than he was before.

An overzealous official, perhaps, nobody ever doubted his sincerity of purpose or the righteousness of his undertaking; and he speaks now in courageous, aggressive terms that will at once command attention. He presents his case as Roosevelt was wont to present his case.

The issue is drawn sharply drawn—and Congress cannot evade it, if it would. The administration has acted with wisdom in the appointment of Mr. Graves as Chief Forester—a man of Mr. Pinchot's type. This is assurance given that the Forest Service, whatever the handicaps due to a tense situation, is to be kept in capable hands.

Germany's Potash Trust.

It appears that the fact is not yet established that the act pending before the German Bundersrath, for taking under government control the potash syndicate, would involve an "undue discrimination" against the United States, and so bring into action the maximum tariff upon imports into this country from Germany. The proposed act would affect all foreign potash alike, with the possible exception of outstanding private contracts of some of the independent producers. The establishment of a government monopoly might affect some of those contracts, but that need not mean undue discrimination against the United States, or a failure to accord to its products "treatment which is reciprocal or equivalent." In that statement it is assumed that the proposed monopoly would affect the trade of citizens of the United States precisely as it would those of other nations.

The reported purpose of the German act is to form an official trust to restrict the production and maintain the price of potash. The ultimate object is stated to be that of conservation. The Prussian government, which is the prime mover in this policy, is one of the principal owners of potash mines, and one of its officials was at the head of a syndicate that had failed to control the industry because of the tendency to competition. That syndicate, because of its profits, was forced to admit new companies into its combination, but finally it lost exclusive control of the export trade to the United States. Out of this failure arose the official intervention, which proposes to allot to each company the quantity of potash that it may produce each year. There is to be an imperial commissioner to look after the application of the law. This may be wise policy, or it may not; but that would seem to lie within the province of German judgment, so long as other nations are treated alike. Hence, on the face of the case, there appears no undue discrimination against the United States. This is another instance in which the maximum and minimum section of the tariff act will either prove meaningless, or else a source of difficulty injurious to commerce.

Stock Without Dollar Mark.

Recently there has been discussed in financial and legal circles the proposition of "stock without the dollar mark," but the first practical application of such a principle comes with the financing of the Chicago surface railway lines by the Morgan syndicate. With the change in control of the several companies which heretofore have made up the traction systems in Chicago, the proposal is made to issue a large amount of stock for the purchase of other lines in the future or for the extension of the present system.

There will be some criticism when the plan is put into operation. Already the recent merger has resulted in the issue of \$25,000,000 new securities, when the total outstanding securities of the merged lines amounts to only about \$24,000,000, making nearly \$40,000,000 worth of the new issue as near water as it is possible in financing.

Criticism of this issue resulted in the originating of the plan to issue two series of "participating certificates," having no par value and not intended for immediate offer to the public. This stock is to be held by the trustees as "elastic securities." There is no analogy with "elastic currency," however, for in the case of currency it can expand or contract, but in the case of the new securities there is no possibility for contraction. At least, not until it has been sold and has attained a listed value. Then it becomes the same as any other stock, valued at the price it will bring in the open market.

The experiment will be watched with

interest. When the issue of \$25,000,000 worth of securities begins to net more than 6 per cent, the "participating certificates" can be floated and they will at once become dividend paying, as it has been arranged for the first series to pay at the rate of 4-1/2 and the second series at the rate of 4 per cent. When the lines become sufficiently prosperous, the "stock without a dollar mark" will take its place as preferred stock and pay 6 per cent. The owners of the original issue of \$25,000,000 will have to share the profits with those who control a stock which has no value and which can be obtained only by those in control of the syndicate.

McCall on "Cannibalism."

"Cannibalism" is the title of a timely article in the current issue of the Saturday Evening Post, which may be read with profit by those who would know what is really involved in the epithet—"Cannibalism."

It is a notable contribution to contemporary discussion, because it comes, not from a partisan of high distinction inseparably affiliated with the ruling powers, whatever they be, but from a Republican of established reputation for independence in thought and action and who hails from a district that demands free-handed representation in Congress—Hon. Samuel W. McCall, of Massachusetts.

The term "Cannibalism," he says, and truthfully, involves an indictment, not merely of a man, but of the American Speakership, including, also, the general procedure of the House of Representatives and its value as the popular legislative chamber of the greatest nation in the world. A great body, as a whole, the House is fairly representative of the American people, and it reflects the best qualities that have been imputed to them. Therefore, to admit the existence of "Cannibalism" would, in Mr. McCall's opinion, "require us to draw inferences far from complimentary to the American people."

He traces the career of Mr. Cannon, drawing an excellent pen-picture of him, and remarks, in passing, that those who are disturbed at the Speaker's "picturesque methods of expression" would have been no less disturbed in the case of Lincoln. Even his political enemies admit that he has been a force for real economy, and has "saved the country millions of dollars." Mr. McCall adds that a careful inspection of Mr. Cannon's record will not justify the opinion that he is "narrow and lacking in real political enterprise, and that he has shown himself only slightly responsive to those progressive ideas of a broad public character that lie outside the usual run of party questions."

The Massachusetts statesman, in reviewing Mr. Cannon's career in Congress at length, shows that he has been not only economical, but at the same time has steadfastly supported measures tending to conserve and develop the natural resources of the country and promote the general good.

But it is his discussion of the system of control of the House, rather than his just analysis of the Speaker's Congressional record and his personal tribute to him as a man, that gives paramount and timely importance to Mr. McCall's article. He finds, as every fair-minded student of affairs must come to know, that what is called Cannibalism, against which dissatisfied people are railing, is really a system developed by the House itself, and adhered to as necessary to transact the public's business. He says in conclusion:

"The American Speakership is a development of more than a century of fierce struggle, controlled now by one party and now by another, and it is better fitted to our needs than was an institution from a different kind of government. For it takes very little of political philosophy to discern the superiority of those governmental agencies that are a growth and an adaptation to the conditions concerned in actual experience."

Mr. McCall may not convince, but he, at any rate, gives an able presentation of the case of the regulars.

Army and Navy Elimination.

The plan for the relief of the commissioned personnel of the United States navy may be considered as well on its way toward presentation to Congress. The scheme will be fortified, it is understood, by copious statistics and convincing arguments derived from the naval general board. The proposition is deserving of the closest scrutiny by the House and Senate Naval Committees before any action is taken by those bodies as a step toward the enactment of the legislative remedy. There has been recognized in both the army and navy a desire to adopt elimination as a means of helping promotion. This, no doubt, has its conscientious advocates. At the same time it must be taken into account that all these plans for relief of the military-naval personnel originate, for the most part, with officers who are likely to be most directly benefited by the plans they suggest. It is no attack upon the integrity of their purposes to say that Congress should assume a critical attitude toward these projects to the end that injustice may be done to no officer or class of officers, or that the expense of military-naval maintenance be not increased to foster any plan of elimination.

Promotion is a very desirable factor, and it will be appreciated by the civilian observer that military organization must be seriously handicapped when the advancement of personnel is unduly retarded. But there has been promotion in various parts of the army and navy quite beyond precedent in the last few years; pay and allowances have been substantially increased and the cost of maintaining the army and navy has steadily advanced until it has assumed proportions which may legitimately be regarded as alarming. It is on this ground that Congress has a right to insist that any proposition of relief shall not increase the cost of maintaining the commissioned personnel and shall not, moreover, support on the retired list officers who are capable of performing their duties by all the standards, physical and professional.

"For the first time in the history of the country a President of the United States has openly proclaimed himself the friend of thieves and the enemy of honest men. That, and that alone, is the most serious charge against the Executive order of Friday removing Gifford Pinchot from office," says the Louisville Courier-Journal. Oh, come, now, "Marse Henry!"

that is hardly fair or convincing. Besides, having in mind your wager with the New York World, you ought not to undertake the prejudicing of the case so violently.

"Don't be a megalomaniac," will hardly become as popular in this country, we imagine, as was "Don't be a mollycoddle." Although it would seem to be equally as good advice.

Let us hope the present cheerful willingness of Republican leaders to row among themselves is not prompted by the old idea that, no matter what else happens or falls to happen, Mr. Bryan will again be the Democratic candidate for the Presidency in 1912.

"Atlanta is not the whole State," avers the Macon Telegraph. That hoarse gurgle you hear is Atlanta's.

"Feet are growing larger," says the Chicago Post. That paper has the courage if its convictions, despite ancient merry quips and jests.

"G. O. P. may yet come to be accepted as meaning 'Grand Old Pinchot,'" says a contemporary. And, on the contrary, as merely having meant "Get out, Pinchot!"

"The people are thinkers," suggests the Charleston News and Courier. And what some of the "regulars" in Republican circles are thinking would hardly be safe to print, moreover.

Senator Aldrich, it is said, has determined not to retire from the Senate at the end of his present term of service. This will save Rhode Island the trouble of hunting up another man to run the government.

"The Ballinger-Pinchot squabble is to be 'aired,'" says the Los Angeles Express. Well, it might not be a bad idea to mix a little formaldehyde with the air.

An Ohio judge recently decided that poker is a game of chance; and now comes a New York judge and decides it is nothing of the kind. It requires no learned psychologist to guess the sort of game each judge plays.

A California physician reverses the usually accepted theory as to rheumatism, and a meat diet, and declares that the consumption of two pounds of rare porterhouse steak per day will permanently cure any case of rheumatism in two months. Evidently an ultra-fashionable doctor given to prescribing for plutocrats exclusively.

The legislature is in session, and Deacon Hemphill is coming to town. What more could Richmond ask of kind fortune?

But when the "pork barrel" heaves in sight the Congressional waters will grow as calm, unruffled, and placid as a lake.

"Long hair has become the fashion for men in London," notes the Savannah News. Is this a concession to the suffragettes?

The fact that the D. A. R. Rters have come out for conservation means more war, and plenty of it.

As we understand the Houston Post, Texas not only had more lynchings than any other State last year, but they were more majestic, uplifting, and awe-inspiring than the measly little lynchings of other outside communities.

"Jim Jeffries refuses to talk," says a sporting item. Alas, poor "Jeff." We knew him well. A fellow of infinite buff.

We think G. Pinchot might easily get as much as \$1 per word for a few remarks exclusively submitted.

A Western man wrote a poem recently, and immediately thereafter killed himself. This got the poem in print, which may have been what he really was seeking to accomplish.

"Once in four years is enough for the sort of things Boston has gone through," says the Boston Herald. It is too often for some of the things Washington has gone through—last inauguration day, for instance.

A well-known woman's magazine has been discussing very seriously the problem of scientific speaking. The more science and the less spanning the final decision contains, the better little Johnnie will like it.

PRINTED OF PUBLIC MEN.

Mr. Bryan Absent.

From the New York Sun.
While Mr. Bryan was celebrating Jackson day by declaring "The Prince of Peace" at Crystal, in the Canal Zone (a dispatch from Colonel Bailey says that "he did not mention politics"), the untold Democracy of Missouri was going on a two dollar dinner in Kansas City.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Who reads the Congressional Record?" Inquires the Deseret News. Well, the proofreaders, anyway, even if they do get a salary for it.—Washington Herald.

From the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

"What the Democratic party needs," begins The Washington Herald hopefully, "is not so much leaders as followers." What the Democratic party needs is not so much getting more advice, as taking some of that already gotten.

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Complete the the Chronicle Murray's order to the employees of his office to discontinue the sending of the familiar "form letters," which have been so common a feature of bank administration in Washington, is decidedly to be praised.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

FOOLISH FELLOW.
A calloused rogue got caught at last and served at labor hard.
Got out reformed, lived down the past; Won back his wife's regard.

They saw a pretty girl one day Upon a crowded street,
And he remarked in idle way That she seemed rather neat.

And every day since then his wife Regards him with a frown.
He made the great mistake of life And cannot live it down.

In Goggles.
"There's a masked man at the back door."
"Horror! Is he after my diamonds?"
"No, madam. He only wants to borrow a can of gasoline."

He Was Occupied.
"Husband, what shall we call the baby?"
"Oh, I dunno," said the professor.
"Don't bother me now. I'm trying to think up a name for a new microbe."

Nothing New.
"I'm a little rusty on my Shakespeare. What was the trouble between the Montagues and the Capulets?"
"Same old row. There was a love affair and each family thought its offspring was marrying low."

Too Much Espionage.
The small boy feels like a slave,
His every act a crime.
But for his parents he could have A bully time.

She Didn't Comprehend.
"Yes, I am going abroad."
"And how are you going to arrange your itinerary?"
"I understand coronet braids are the latest thing."

A Compromise.
"In Act II you are supposed to be severely wounded," explained the manager.
"I don't wish you to take a curtain call. It spoils the illusion."
"I might be carried before the curtain on a stretcher," suggested the actor.
"No; it won't do. I'll let a doctor go out and issue a bulletin if you like."

Not Exclusive Enough.
"What's the tariff for scorching?"
"Five dollars."
"Pshaw! At that rate anybody can afford to exceed the speed limit."

PRO AND CON.
From the Elkhart Advertiser.

The poet of The Washington Herald, who has been taken to task for attempting to rhyme "gone" with "morn," pleads in extenuation the fact that he is from Georgia, where "gone" is pronounced "go-r-n." Oh, the resourcefulness of these newspaper men!

From the Chattanooga Times.

"A blind tiger" located in a well has been raided in Tennessee. The neighborhood will now have to find some other "sassy" deep from which to call up spirits," says The Washington Herald. They don't need nasty deeds. The spirits come from beneath the earth, from its surface, from high, low, and level places. They are not at all particular about their place of residence.

From the Columbia States.

The Washington Herald reports that Maj. John Ross, of the Charlotte Observer, weighs 160 pounds. Just suppose Maj. Ross were a bale of cotton at present prices!

From the New York Herald.

"The Chautauqua circuit is, after all, the great megaphone through which come the major thundering of the more familiar variety of political reformer," says The Washington Herald. Evidently a mistake. Our contemporary means a talking machine.

From the Pennsylvania Spirit.

The Washington Herald suggests that "the worst thing 189 has to answer for is the 'Oh, you kid!' idiosyncrasy, and we can only hope that it may now safely be regarded as something that belongs to the past."

From the Savannah Press.

"More in sorrow than in anger, more in pity than in scorn, will the paragrapher dismiss the little Brooklyn doctor. With all his faults he was good to them," says The Washington Herald. But the trouble is, they will not dismiss the doctor.

From the Charlotte Observer.

The Washington Herald rightly admires and perhaps rightly attributes to the Christmas spirit a new near-poem, which the Observer recently presented with appropriate comment. What would life be without the near-poets?

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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According to a resolution introduced in the House by Representative Lamb, of Virginia, Gen. George Washington was in his day some land owner. The resolution directs the Secretary of the Treasury to pay to Col. Robert E. Lee, Jr., with the will annexed by Gen. Washington, the sum of \$300,000, with interest thereon from December 5, 1797, at 6 per cent per annum until paid, the value of 5,651 acres of land in the Virginia military district of Ohio, at one time owned by him and improperly taken from his executors and devised by grants issued by the United States in conflicting surveys.

The Republican caucus was such a tame affair Wednesday evening that the supposed belligerents are nonplussed. They don't just know how it happened. Instead of a war of words and fireworks, the meeting resolved itself into an orderly Sunday school class, with all the scholars attentive to the teacher.

It looks natural to see the Hon. Joseph Benson Foraker strolling along the corridors of the Capitol. His friends—and they are legion—are pleased to welcome him in their midst. Mr. Foraker is in Washington looking after the case of Capt. Carter before the Supreme Court. Senator Warner, who antagonized the distinguished Ohioan in the celebrated Brownsville case, entertained him at luncheon yesterday. Mr. Foraker looks well and quite content with his present lot in life.

When Senator Carter has a report to make, it is a good bet that it will be short and to the point. He will not becloud a matter with a lengthy conclusion, but when he takes on his postal savings bank bill, that is another matter. The Government Printing Office will take on an extra force to get out the Record on time.

Senator Nelson and Representative Dailzell were seen having a heart-to-heart talk. Their faces had a decided Ballinger-Pinchot look. Senator Nelson is chairman of the Senate conference committee on the investigation resolution, and Representative Dailzell holds a like position on the House committee.

If talking on every question is a qualification for a leader, Senator Money is on the job.

It is noticeable that the insurgents in the Senate are always on deck, no matter how many of the regulars are missing.

If all the members of Congress were as earnest in support of the District schools as Senator Tillman, Washington need have no worry.

A joker has been discovered in a Senate Bill—"Bill" Bradley, of the Blue Grass State. Watch him!

Congressman W. W. McCredie, of Washington, had an amusing experience the other day. A well-known and wealthy contractor of his State had called at Mr. McCredie's office three days in succession without being able to "hall" him. Instead, he saw Mr. McCredie's private and confidential secretary and political adviser, Mr. McRea, who is well known in newspaper circles of this city, being a former Washington scribe.

Mr. McRea, who told the story, said the first day the visitor called he noticed the traces of breakfast on his shirt bosom in the shape of a spill of egg. The second and third day the same spill was in evidence. Mr. McRea told Mr. McCredie about it, and when the contractor called on the fourth day Mr. McCredie espied the spill of egg. Said he:

"Howdy, Mr. Dimkott; as busy as ever; always after the almighty dollar; too busy, in fact, to even change your soiled shirt."

"That ain't no soiled shirt; that's only egg."

Editor Fairbrother, proprietor of the Greensboro (N. C.) Evening, a visitor at the Capitol yesterday, has the unique distinction of being the only newspaper man who suspended publication of his sheet for a year in order to take a vacation. And when he resumed, Everything was more prosperous than ever.

"It was this way," said Editor Fairbrother. "I had to take a vacation. I did not want to let another man have the paper, for he would either kill it or improve it—in either case to my loss, so I just turned out the lights and shut off steam."

"When I returned, a year afterward, I started in with more subscribers and more advertising than I had when I suspended."

Surely Not Modest!

From the New York Herald.

"She has made a modest fortune out of her bare-foot dancing."

"Modest, nothing!"

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